

Page 8, line 9. Delete --added--
Replace "agent" with --region--.

line 12. Replace "agent" with --region--.

line 16. Replace "region" with --agent--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. [Twice Amended] A method for producing a flexible and low density cross-linking gel for connecting optical fibers having a refractive index, said method comprising:

a compounding step for adjusting the refractive index of a flexible silicone gel material to that generally equal to the refractive index of said optical fibers to be connected, [have a specified refractive index,] and

a reaction step for causing the flexible silicone gel material adjusted in [the] said compounding step to cross-link in a binding region [agent] where cross-linking density is low, thereby producing said [a] low cross-linking-density gel for closely adhering to said optical fibers.

Cancel claim 2, without prejudice.

Amend claim 7 as follows:

7. [Twice amended] A method for producing a low cross-linking density gel used for connecting and for adhering to optical fibers, said method comprising:

a compounding step for adjusting the refractive index of a flexible silicone gel material to the [to have a specified] refractive index of said fibers to be connected,

a synthesizing step for synthesizing a composition by adding a cross-linking agent to said flexible silicone gel material adjusted in said compounding step;

a filling step for filling said composition into a syringe,

a sealing step for sealing said syringe, and

a reaction step for heating [the] said sealed syringe to cause [the] said composition to undergo an addition reaction in a binding region [agent] where cross-linking density is low, thereby producing a low cross-linking density gel in said syringe allowing said close adherence to said optical fibers.

Amend claim 10 as follows:

10. [Twice amended] A low cross-linking density gel used for connecting optical fibers, said gel being characterized in that it is produced by adjusting [causing] a flexible silicone gel material so that said material [adjusted to have] has a [specified] predetermined refractive index generally identical to that of the refractive index of said optical fibers to be connected and further subjecting said gel to [undergo] an addition reaction with the addition of a cross-linking agent so that said gel will cross-link in a binding [agent] region where cross-linking density is low.

Cancel claim 11, without prejudice.

Clean copy of the pages on which the above-noted amendments are incorporated is attached.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended by reciting that the refractive index of the gel is made substantially equal to the refractive index of the optical fibers which are to be joined